'Actions, Not Words,' LBJ Tells Castro

President Johnson is much more interested in deeds than words from Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, he said yesterday.

The President made the statement in response to an offer by Castro to improve relations with the United States.

Mr. Johnson's remarks on Cuba came when he was asked at his news conference about a series of recent public statements by Castro suggesting that the United States and Cuba sit down and negotiate some of their differences.

Mr. Johnson replied that he had seen these reports and would "carefully watch" for any actions or deeds by the Communist regime in Cuba that might indicate sincerity.

But he said he was "much more interested in the deeds than the words and I shall carefully watch for any actions or any deeds that would carry into effect the actions that I think would be in the best interest of the people of Cuba and the people of the world."

Mr. Johnson declined to spell out in advance what steps the Administration hopes the Foreign Ministers of members of the Organization of American States will take regarding Cuba at a meeting opening here July 21.

Mr. Johnson said he did not want to "prejudge" the actions of the OAS Ministers. The meeting will consider charges by Venezuela of Cuban aggression.

Castro Offer

Q. Mr. President, Premier (Fidel) Castro has recently had a long interview in which he is offering to negotiate peace with the United States. What is your attitude or your response to that?

The President: I have seen newspaper reports purporting to reflect his attitude. I am much more interested in the deeds than the words, and I shall carefully watch for any actions or any deeds that would carry into effect the actions that I think would be in the best interest of the people of Cuba and the people of the world. I am much more interested in deeds than words.

The Press: Thank you, Mr. President.